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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1574

WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1943

GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

VOL. 33, NO. 19

FACING THE FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Some time ago, the members of Congress were said to be deeply concerned by the realization that the people of America hold the legislative branch of our Government in contempt.

For a while this topic occupied space in newspaper headlines, was discussed at length by columnists and aired over radio forums. Then, like most other nine-day wonders, interest flagged and the subject was dropped.

This does not mean to say, however, that popular scorn for the members of Congress has abated. In our opinion it has increased. And the fault lies entirely with the members of Congress themselves.

Never, in our history, has any legislative body shown itself so impotent and corrupt, and contemptible as our present-day Congress of the United States.

Never have representatives of the people failed so dismally in their duty of representing the people.

This failure is the most shocking and serious because it comes at a time when our nation is at the very height of its power and its glory.

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From the pen of the

Yes, we said, consider the facts. Here we are faced with a situation on the home front where the people are being robbed right and left by price profiteers, by Congress doing anything about it? Certainly. Powerful industrial blocs are busy putting the heat on the Office of Price Administration to open the gates wider and provide larger opportunities for profiteers "friends" of their to gorge deeper into the pockets of the masses of the people.

The question of grade-labeling. The OPA was caught in a dilemma. Labor and consumer groups demanded that the government require and enforce packers to label their goods according to quality. This was a step toward OPA. However, it seemed that Congress would not support the bill. Congress stepped in. A committee was hastily authorized to "investigate." Under this indirect form of action OPA showed a yellow streak and abandoned grade-labeling.

Then came the question of labor legislation. There is a group in Congress that live in a world-pink room to jump at the threat of American workers and their union organizations. They are the "labor" group. They are the "labor" group. They are the "labor" group.

The House Goes to Town

As if that wasn't bad enough, the House of Representatives has jumped at the chance to go to town. The Connally bill was referred to a committee packed against labor whose members are even now rewriting the bill to include every form of loophole to destroy the rights of wage-earners and cripple the trade-union movement.

The men who are doing these things were elected by the people of this country. They are supposed to represent the people. They are supposed to represent the people. They are supposed to represent the people.

Yes, labor still has friends in Congress. But the people and labor men who are responsible for the situation are the ones who are responsible for the situation. They are the ones who are responsible for the situation.

Thomas J. Lyons, New York State Federation of Labor Head, Dies

New York City—Thomas J. Lyons, president of the New York State Federation of Labor and more than 25 years an active figure in the American Federation of Labor, died at St. Vincent's hospital, at the age of 69.

The New York State Federation Board at a formal meeting adopted a resolution expressing its sympathy to Mrs. Lyons and her family. The widow, who is the state federation's secretary, is being cared for by her daughter, Mrs. Lyons, who is the state federation's secretary.

In Montreal, where he was attending a defense conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffeurs, Lyons expressed his sincere regret at the death of Mr. Lyons.

Mr. Lyons was a member of the state's Business Advisory Committee, the State War Council, to which he was appointed in 1940 by Governor Herbert H. Lehman, and a labor member of the Regional War Manpower Commission in this area.

Mr. Lyons was born in Brooklyn, at the 1940 convention at Rochester.

Protect Service Dependency Checks From Theft, Secret Service Urges

Washington, D. C.—Reports that many service dependency checks are being stolen from postboxes, mail boxes or other places, and that forged checks are being cashed at the Stateside Service to intensify its nationwide campaign to protect the checks.

The following procedure is urged by the Secret Service to help protect the checks:

1. Be sure some member of the family is at home when the checks are to be delivered.

U. S. Navy Wants Skilled Labor For Naval Base At Pearl Harbor

Washington, D. C.—Pearl Harbor needs help. Today, more than ever before, the trans-Pacific air and sea routes are vital to the American people. The Navy is paying all expenses of men who have the necessary "know how" to keep the Pacific Fleet "hot to fight."

The job is big. The work is of utmost importance to the success of the nation's defense. The work is of utmost importance to the success of the nation's defense.

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TAKES UP WAR PROBLEMS

Washington, D. C.—The AFL Executive Council met May 17 in the nation's capital to consider major economic crises that have arisen on the home front.

Foremost on the agenda for consideration by the Executive Council are:

- 1—Wage policies of the War and the Office of Economic Stabilization.
- 2—Failure of the OPA to roll back food prices.
- 3—"The job freeze" program of the War Manpower Commission.

The Executive Council is also expected to take up the war production program, the status of labor's no-strike pledge, anti-labor legislation pending in Congress and adopted by various State Legislatures, postwar economic conditions, and negotiations with the CIO.

WAR LABOR BOARD BOOSTS WAGES OF RADIO STAFFS

Washington, D. C.—Wages increased 4 to 10 percent for radio, engineering and sound effect artists of seven broadcasting companies, the War Labor Board announced today.

The board's decision was approved by the National War Labor Board.

The American Federation of Labor, AFL, represents the radio, engineering and sound effect artists of the Columbia Broadcasting System, National Broadcasting System, Blue Network, Inc., and the National Broadcasting System and WOB.

GARMENT WORKERS UNION BUTS OFFICE BUILDING

New York City—Purchase of the New York City Motor Company building at 710 Broadway, to be used as national headquarters of the International Garment Workers Union, was announced by David D. Friedman, president of the union.

The purchase was made by Frederick J. Friedman, executive secretary of the union.

NEGRO DISCRIMINATION STRESSED IN DOCUMENT

New York City—Although half a million Negroes are serving in the Army, Navy and Air Force, they are being discriminated against in the service, according to the pamphlet, "Negro Discrimination in the Service of the United States," published by the National Negro Labor Council.

TOOL SHARPENING OUTPUT TRIPLED BY MACHINIST

Seattle, Wash.—Leonard Nelson, member of Machinists' Local No. 1, AFL, of this city, developed a new method of sharpening cutlery tools in the Pacific Car & Foundry Co., where he works. His improvement, which has increased production of this operation, was made possible through the labor-management committee.

PAINTERS GIVE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS TO RUSSIA

Detroit, Mich.—A gift of surgical instruments worth \$600 from Detroit's Painters' Brotherhood of America (AFL), was announced by the union's president.

The Painters Union decided to donate the instruments to the Russian Red Cross, in appreciation of the great fighting spirit of the Russian people. We hope the ship-ment will result in a complete victory over fascism.

AFL FUR DRESSERS UNION SIGNS UP MONTREAL FIRM

Montreal, Can.—The AFL Fur Dressers Union has negotiated an agreement with the Montreal Fur Dressers for providing for the 40-hour week, overtime pay, and other benefits for the union members.

Green Reaffirms Labor's No-Strike Pledge; Calls in Congress To Defeat Connally Bill; Heavy Demands Election To Back Prices

AFL Urges Treasury Secretary to Defeat The Connally Bill!

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green, in a letter to all members of the House of Representatives, urged defeat of the Connally Anti-Strike Bill.

Mr. Green charged that the bill would violate the 96 per cent of American workers who have voluntarily pledged their labor's no-strike pledge and who sustained production efforts have made victory possible.

Mr. Green declared that the bill "was conceived by those who are fundamentally opposed to labor and passed 'at the expense' of the millions of members of the United States Senate who are not opposed to labor and who are not opposed to labor."

Mr. Green declared that the six million members of the American Federation of Labor are determined to continue to live up to the no-strike pledge and added:

"I protest against these splendid workers being made the victims of feeling and passion created by an incident over which they had no control and in which they were in no way involved."

While the members of the AFL voluntarily have laid aside the strike weapon for the duration of the war, they will oppose with all the power at their command any attempt to compel them to do so. Mr. Green declared.

He charged that an anti-strike law would reduce workers to a "condition of slavery."

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St. Louis—In ringing tones, AFL President William Green reaffirmed labor's war-time no-strike commitment here as "an unconditional pledge, with no strings attached to it."

Addressing the convention of the Brotherhood of Railway and Shipbuilding Workers, Mr. Green declared:

"Come what may, the 6,000,000 members of the AFL will live up to their word and give faithful and continuous service to the fight for freedom and democracy until this war is won."

Mr. Green's statement was considered a double-barreled reply to John L. Lewis on the one hand and to the labor leaders on the other.

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WLB Asks Restoration of Power To Make Needed Wage Adjustments

Washington, D. C.—The members of the War Labor Board today asked Congress to restore to them the power to make wage adjustments.

The board's request was made in a letter to the House of Representatives.

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Merchant Shipyard Workers Boost Ship Deliveries To 157 In April

Washington, D. C.—Workmen at the Merchant Shipyard Workers Union have boosted ship deliveries to 157 in April, a record for the industry.

The union's members worked 157 ships in April, a record for the industry.

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ABRITRATION UNIT MEETING TO BE ADDRESS BY WATT

New York City—The American Arbitration Association, a national organization for the settlement of disputes, will hold a meeting in New York City on May 20.

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